



**ALABAMA COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE SYSTEM**

**Department of Postsecondary Education  
Dr. Freida Hill, Chancellor**

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## **Alabama's two-year college system to RAISE the ROOF for Haiti**

**MONTGOMERY** – State Board of Education members and college presidents joined Alabama Community College System Chancellor Freida Hill on Thursday to announce a system-wide effort to help rebuild Haiti.

"The RAISE the ROOF for Haiti campaign will raise funds for Habitat for Humanity Haiti, a program that has been building sturdy, small homes in Haiti for the past quarter-century," the chancellor said. "We are inviting employees, students and partners of all our institutions and the Department of Postsecondary Education to participate in this campaign."

Hill praised the outpouring of emergency relief fundraising efforts throughout the state and the college system. "These emergency relief efforts are vitally important to saving lives in a still-unstable situation in Haiti, and we encourage our institutions to continue them," Hill said. "But those of us who remember the lessons of Hurricane Katrina know that the long-term recovery efforts are just as daunting."

Habitat for Humanity notes that so many Haitians are now homeless that "long after the cameras have left, Habitat for Humanity still will be on the ground building houses and hope with families desperate for both."

Here's what RAISE the ROOF for Haiti dollars will buy:

- \$250: Emergency shelter kit to help families make immediate repairs and construct temporary shelter. The kit includes much-needed tools usually in short supply following disaster.
- \$1,000 - \$2,500: Transitional shelters (one-room wood, concrete block and tin-roof homes for a typical Haitian family of five).
- \$4,000 - \$6,000: Core houses – small, but well-constructed and disaster-resistant, permanent structures for a family of five. Thousands of these homes will be needed, and Habitat is committed to building as many as funding allows.
- Debris clean-up and building repairs.

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Habitat's design and construction of transitional and core houses comply with international humanitarian standards.

Participating colleges will post this link on their home pages: <http://www.accs.cc/haiti.aspx>. Donations will go directly to Habitat for Humanity Haiti and will be tracked to each participating institution. Donors will receive receipts for tax purposes, and are reminded that all donations made by March 1 can be deducted from 2009 taxes.

The RAISE the ROOF for HAITI campaign continues through April in honor of National Community College Month. Colleges are encouraged to post their activities on the Alabama Community College System's new [Facebook](#) page which also is being launched today.

**Alabama Southern Community College** was the first college to adopt the RAISE the ROOF for Haiti project and has set a goal of \$5,000, enough to build a core home for a family of five. Alabama Southern is asking students to give at least a dollar a week for the next eight weeks. Alabama Southern Campus Ministries will also be conducting fundraisers through March to help fund the project.

Hill noted that many ACCS colleges and divisions already are at work on many other Haiti relief efforts, including:

- **Bevill State Community College** student organizations, faculty and staff are collecting soap, shampoo, toilet tissue, hand sanitizers, first aid kits, small toys, blankets, towels, wash cloths and sleeping bags. A local fourth grade elementary school class in Fayette partnered with the college to collect items that would fit in a shoe box to help the children in Haiti. Missions Unlimited and Missionary Flights International will deliver the items.
- **Bishop State Community College** raised \$1,252.20, for the American Red Cross. Bishop State also is working to raise 1,000 cases of bottled water for Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society's "Water 4 Haiti" project.
- **Calhoun Community College** Child Development Club, Phi Theta Kappa, Black Student Alliance and SGA at Calhoun are collecting dried beans, rice and powdered milk and recently have been asked to help in providing cots and other supplies, as well. Phi Theta Kappa at the Huntsville campus conducted a hotdog fundraiser, raising more than \$200. The Black Student Alliance is sponsoring a weekly pizza sale with all proceeds going to the Haiti relief effort.
- **Chattahoochee Valley Community College** students, faculty and staff placed collection buckets around campus for donations of spare change and raised \$250 in just two weeks for the American Red Cross.
- **Drake State Technical College** students, faculty and staff are providing supplies and assistance to organizations leading the efforts to comfort our neighbors in Haiti. The college is collecting medical and first-aid supplies for the National Association for the Prevention of Starvation and cases of water for the Alabama Water for Haiti program.
- **Faulkner State Community College** Student Support Services is collecting clothing, blankets, diapers, infant formula (powder), baby wipes, toiletries and medical supplies. Donations are being received at all three campuses in administrative offices, residence halls, and several classes. Phi Beta Lambda Business Honor Society and the Office of Administration classes turned in more than 300 donated items this week; response has

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been so great that the cutoff date has been extended. Student Support Services will collect all donations and deliver them to a central receiving point in Daphne for shipment.

- **Gadsden State Community College** nursing instructor Brenda Anderson will travel on a mission trip to Haiti during Spring Break. Gadsden State is collecting summer clothes and shoes along with monetary donations to help with shipping. Anderson has a student from Haiti who expressed the huge need for clothing. Phi Theta Kappa is sponsoring a “Jeans for Haiti” campaign, collecting more than 50 pairs of gently worn jeans thus far. The jeans will be delivered to Aeropostale in Gadsden, which is participating in the national campaign. Aeropostale will match the first 100,000 pairs of jeans donated nationally and take care of mailing these to Haiti.
- **Governor’s Office of Workforce Development** staff at DPE donated \$400 to the American Red Cross Haiti Relief.
- **Jefferson State Community College** Student Ambassadors are collecting items for health kits, including: hand towels, wash cloths, combs, nail files, bars of soap, toothbrushes, and adhesive bandages. Their goal is to make at least 250 kits to send to Birmingham Southern College, which is partnering with the United Methodist Council on Relief to get the kits to Haiti.
- **Northeast Alabama Community College** Student Government Association is raising money for Hope for Haiti and all proceeds/donations will be given to the American Red Cross.
- **Reid State Technical College** Student Government Association is mounting a drive for clothing and shoes.
- **Shelton State Community College** Baptist Campus Ministries is participating in Buckets of Hope. Each bucket is packed with specific items designed to feed a Haitian family for a week.
- **Snead State Community College** is partnering with Miami-Dade College in Florida to help Haitian students at MDC whose families have been adversely affected by the recent earthquakes in Haiti. Student leaders have led the campus and the community in a series of fundraisers and special events to bring awareness to the grief and hardship experienced by the Miami Dade students. At the conclusion of the campaign, a group consisting of the student leaders and Snead State employees will travel to Miami to deliver the contributions and to establish the beginning of a cultural exchange partnership between Snead State and Miami Dade.
- **Southern Union State Community College** Student Nurse Organization is collecting first aid supplies in conjunction with Love-A-Child, which maintains an orphanage and school in Haiti. The Association of Radiologic Technology Students partnered with the local chapter of the Masonic Lodge to collect toiletries. Phi Beta Lambda is collecting Jeans for Haiti, to be matched by Aeropostale. Southern Union also participated in a shoe drive through Soles4Souls, a local organization.
- **Wallace Community College-Dothan** Student Government Association collected various hygiene products, pain relievers, antiseptics and first-aid products for Columbia Baptist Association, which will deliver the items to Haiti when missionaries are allowed in the country.
- **Wallace State Community College-Hanceville** Sigma Kappa Delta English honor society raised \$410 for the American Red Cross from a fundraiser and donations received in classes.